

Appl. No. 10/509,136
Reply to Office Action of July 6, 2006
Amendment dated: November 6, 2006

REMARKS

In regard to the Examiner's assertion that the prior amendment renders the claim language unclear, with reference to claim 4 at lines 6-10, Applicant notes that the referenced passage in the previously amended claim merely states that a color separation/composition element is provided for color separating the illumination light from the illumination optical system into light for the respective spatial modulation elements and for compositing reflection light from the spatial light modulation elements. Contrary to the Examiners assertions, Applicants respectfully submit that the referenced portion of the claim language is clear and grammatically correct. The undersigned invites the Examiner to discuss this claim language should there be any additional concerns subsequent to this submission.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the prior art rejections set forth by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. sections 102 and 103. Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art references of record, whether considered alone, or in combination, fail to either teach or suggest Applicants presently claimed invention. In the most recent office action, the Examiner has asserted that the Johnson reference, United States patent number 6,899,430 anticipates the previously submitted claims. In order to highlight the distinctions between the claimed invention and the prior art, Applicants have modified independent claim 4 to further specify that the illumination light from the illumination optical system enters a condenser lens whose optical access is directed obliquely against the illumination light.

In contrast with the newly cited Johnson prior art reference, Applicants note that the subject matter disclosed in the Johnson reference is merely directed to a system wherein the illumination light from the optical system enters a condenser lens 112 perpendicularly.

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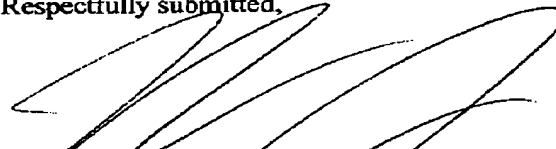
Applicants unique and nonobvious arrangement of the light source and the condensing lens creates certain advantages and enables the system to be manufactured within a smaller overall footprint. Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art references cited by the Examiner failed to teach or suggest this advance in the art.

Additionally, Applicants have submitted new claims which alternately specify that the the color separation/composition element is comprised of a single rectangular body. This alternate aspect of the present invention additionally enables the Applicants to provide the claimed product within a smaller footprint as compared with devices of the prior art.

Applicants respectfully submits that the prior art references cited by the Examiner provide no teaching or suggestion whatsoever regarding the instant innovation. Accordingly, in light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims now stand in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Robert J. Depke, Reg. No. 37,697
ROCKEY, DEPKE, LYONS & KITZINGER, LLC
233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 5450
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Tel: (312) 277-2600
Attorneys for Applicant 